

In Support of:  
House Bill 5673: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REFORMATION OF CERTAIN  
TAXES AND TAX EQUITY.

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Horn, and the distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

My name is Constanza Segovia and I live in Hartford. I'm an organizer with *Hartford Deportation Defense*. Our organization represents 170+ immigrant families and their neighbors in the Hartford area. We are members of the *HUSKY For Immigrants* and the *Recovery For All* coalitions.

**I am testifying in strong support of HB 5673: An Act Concerning The Reformation Of Certain Taxes And Tax Equity.** Connecticut's wealthier residents have long relied on the government to help them turn their hard work into security and a safe future for their families. Immigrants have had to build our own safety net, our own supports, our own community institutions. We do this in the face of legal and economic structures that actively frustrate our attempts to build our future. We cannot depend on employers to pay us our wages, on the courts to hold them accountable, on banks to help us start businesses or buy homes, or on the government or corporations to secure our basic stability when we are too old to work.

We are Connecticut residents. We have built businesses and families and lives in the state that our children know as their only home. Our wealthy neighbors are not contributing their fair share in taxes to fund the public services we all need, and it is unfair that poor and working class people have to pay the price with lack of access to key supports like childcare, affordable housing, and good public schools.

Wealthy CT residents depend on immigrant labor in every aspect of their lives: they don't work harder or care more about their communities; but they do have access to health insurance, They care about the future of their children the same way we do; but they can also turn their hard work into home ownership that helps their children pay for college or buy their own homes or start businesses. Our wealthy neighbors pay taxes and we do too; but their taxes come with the promise of well-funded suburban schools and, later, retirement benefits; ours carry no such guarantees.

The revenue this bill provides could fund an expansion of Husky eligibility that would be life-changing for the stability and peace of mind of immigrant families. The increased enforcement of wage and hour laws will begin to protect us from the exploitation that has undermined the fiscal health of our communities. Expanding tax credits, fully funding our public schools, and increasing the availability of good childcare for families will not only benefit us, but will also support the working-class US citizen neighbors with whom we worship, celebrate, and build. And in the end, the millionaires who pay a little more taxes because of this bill, will also benefit because they will live in a state where every worker can be paid fairly and reinvest in their community, where every child has access to healthcare and can do their best in school, and where every neighborhood is safer and every family can participate more fully in the economic and cultural life of the state.

These aren't "broad based" tax increases. These are narrowly focused proposals to restore fairness to the tax code, fund essential services, and jumpstart economic recovery. **I urge the Committee to make the right choice and pass HB 5673.**

Thank you,  
Constanza Segovia  
Hartford, CT